

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHANGE TO

SECRET

42-48

Origin

SAY

Index

SC

G

MP

W

H

BTF

ABA

EUR

NEA

IO

DAC

P

LOP

INR

RMR

ACTION:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

CIRCULAR 744 011
FOR DISTRIBUTION SEE
PAGE 3

POLICY

Unless you perceive objection, you should seek early occasion to explain to Foreign Minister or other appropriate official how this Government has viewed Soviet policy with respect to Cuban crisis.

Beginning in middle of summer, there were a number of indications that Khrushchev and Soviet Government had concluded there was no possibility Soviet Union could obtain its objectives with respect to Berlin through negotiation. There were also indications that Khrushchev felt too personally committed to achievement of his objectives in Berlin to retreat, as well as indications that factors which were pushing Soviet Government to a resolution of this problem, were increasing (situation in East Germany, Communist Chinese pressure, etc.) and that Soviet Union had decided showdown on Berlin problem was inevitable within some months. There were also indications that Soviet Government and Khrushchev personally had developed doubts as to whether they could win in a showdown and that alternatives might be either an ignominious retreat or nuclear war.

Soviet

Drafted by:

10/24/62

S/AL - Ambassador Thompson:tr

Telegraphic transmittal and classification approved by:

S - The Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Rogers

EUR- Mr. Tyler

REVIEWED BY

DATE 3/31/84

SECRET

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED".

FORM 85-322

(6)(1)

TO: Embassy to:

() CLASSIFIED TO: OADR

() DOWNGRADE TO: () S or () O, OADR

SECRET

Soviet Government privately and later publicly stated that while it would insist upon conclusive discussion of Berlin problem in relatively short period, it would not do so until after American Congressional elections. It maintained this position even though it was made clear to them that so far as US Government concerned, elections had no bearing on the problem.

A number of assurances were given by Soviet Government both privately and publicly that it would not arm Cuba with offensive weapons. This was not / merely
dialectical discussion but specific assurances against weapons that could reach the US. Tass statement of September 11 said that Soviet Union had no need to take such action. This statement, which was largely concerned with Cuban situation, related it to question of German peace treaty and other international problems.

When Gromyko saw President October 18, he made standard but strong statement about Berlin and German peace treaty issues and then made following statements about Cuba: Soviet assistance to Cuba "pursued solely the purpose of contributing to the defense capabilities of Cuba" that "training by Soviet specialists of Cuban nationals in handling defensive armaments was by no means offensive" and that "if it were otherwise, the Soviet Government would have never become involved in rendering such assistance."

Khrushchev indicated to Ambassador Kohler that he had virtually decided to come to UN meeting in New York latter part of November and

SECRET

SECRET

Gromyko in his conversation with President confirmed this, although no specific date was set.

When Soviet action in arming Cuba with offensive nuclear missiles became evident, it was because of developments set forth above that this Government tended believe Soviet action was probably primarily geared to showdown on Berlin, intended to be timed with Khrushchev's arrival in US and completion of installation of these missiles in Cuba.

Addressees may discreetly use general line foregoing and particularly substance Gromyko's statement to President on Berlin on October 18, in background talks with foreign correspondents.

FYL Purpose of this message is to improve understanding that any Berlin crisis will be due to Soviet action. In point of fact, Cuban crisis may well have effect of improving overall position of West in Berlin through clear-cut evidence of our resolution.

End

To be sent action to: (Send as PRIORITY to all action and info posts.)

Amembassy	ANKARA	Amembassy	LUXEMBOURG	Amemb	BERN
"	ATHENS	"	OSLO	"	STOCKHOLM
"	BONN	"	OTTAWA	"	VIENNA
"	BRUSSELS	"	PARIS	"	MADRID
"	COPENHAGEN	"	REYKJAVIK	USBER,	Berlin
"	LISBON	"	ROME		
"	LONDON	"	THE HAGUE		

Repeated info: Amembassy MOSCOW

SECRET